

Town of Lincoln Budget Board Minutes February 5, 2015

Present:

Carl Brunetti

Bob Turner

Richard Foster Rhonda Lacombe

Mike O'Connell Mike Babbitt

Paul Deutsch; Bill McManus

Absent:

Bill DiBiasio; Felix Fernandes; Chris Weggeland

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:31 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to defer the approval of the minutes of January 29th.

Correspondence

There was correspondence from the School Department regarding their upcoming contract negotiation and regular- meetings.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Business

Status of FY14 Audit

There were no new updates as to the status of the FY14 Audit.

Status of Municipal Capital Projects

There were no new updates as to the status of Municipal Capital Projects.

-school Committee Proposed FY16 Education Budget

The Budget Board discussed that the School Committee is considering Chromebooks for all students and the elimination of the High School Reform Facilitator.

The Superintendent has strongly defended the need for that particular position, and the Budget Board will request a copy of the job description for their analysis.

The Budget Board has the following questions regarding providing all students with Chromebooks:

-What mandatory professional education will be offered for teachers of students who will be provided with the Chromebooks?

-What will the teachers be able to do if the students have the Chromebooks that they are unable to do with their current technology?

-Are some schools making students buy their own and then later reimbursing them so that they are unable to do with their current technology?

-If a child leaves the public schools for charter school or out of district placement, would they bring that Chromebook with them?

The Budget Board also discussed the fact that the current technology system designed so that students can bring their own electronic devices and log into the system from anywhere, as well as possibilities of a lease agreement instead of purchasing the Chromebooks so that automatic upgrades, replacement insurance, etc. would be included.

It was noted that it would cost approximately \$100,000 to provide Chromebooks to just teachers, and probably about \$1 million to supply them for all students.

The School Committee's submitted recommendation is an education budget of \$52,399,407 for an increase of \$1,288,892 or 2.52% over the previous year's allocation with the understanding that there are still concerns about health care costs. This is less than the Superintendent's recommendation of an increase

of 4.33%.

The increase of the local share in municipal contributions would be \$823,408 or 2.05%.

There had been 2 additional capital project requests added by the School Committee that include \$250,000 for the completion of the Ferguson Field renovations and \$300,000 for the rest of that campus including bleachers and press box.

The Budget Board discussed that there had been \$1.5 million allocated already for the Ferguson Field project, which was supposed to have been enough to finish the field.

At the time, the Budget Board had recommended that there be an extra \$200,000 added in for contingencies and were told by the School Commi-i-tee that it would not be necessary.

The renovation of the rest of the facilities, including the bleachers and press box, had also been discussed at the time r.md again the School Committee turned down the suggestion that the rest of the renovations be done.

Budget Board noted that there is still \$335,000 in school capital surplus that they can use towards the rest of the renovations because the entire surplus of \$750,000 was not needed to cover excess health care costs as was originally thought.

The Budget Board discussed the suggestion of using a Marketing Consultant, such as the one Cumberland schools has used, for

approximately \$30,000 in order to better inform people about the positive things going in Lincoln schools in an attempt keep more students in the public schools rather than private or charter schools.

The School Committee had voted down the suggestion in the past.

The Budget Board discussed the budget process and the fact that they propose a bottom line education budget only for the Financial Town Meeting.

FY16 Budget Tasks list

The Budget Board discussed the different areas of the budget that each member would like to analyze individually.

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The next meeting of the Budget Board will be held on Thursday, February 12th which will be the Town Administrator's presentation of his recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Adjourn

Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.